TRANSLATOR: CASTELLAN
TYPESETTER: VONSFIELD
CLEANER: LOLO04

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STORY-XI

NICE TO MEET YOU.

I AM ANDER WOOLSEN, AN IRONMONGER.

I HEARD ABOUT IT FROM INGESS.

YES.

I CAME TO INQUIRE ABOUT DAMASCUS STEEL...

I'M CALLED KUUSLA.

OH...

WAY BACK WHEN I WAS YOUNG ...

I WAS THE ONE WHO FIRST TOLD INGESS AND HIS CO-HORTS ABOUT DAMASCUS STEEL.

OR RATHER,

"ACTUALLY, WE ARE A MIRACLE OF THE DESERT. WE KNOW THE SECRET OF DAMASCUS STEEL". AND...

I HAD A LONGING FOR FAR-OFF LANDS, AND THUS COLLECT-ED LEGENDS AND TALES. ONE DAY, MASTER BURNA SAID THIS TO ME JOKINGLY:

AND... INGESS AND THE MEN OF HIS WHO RECALLED HEARING THE TALE FROM ME ARE CONVINCED THAT THE GUILD IS HIDING THE SECRET ARTS OF REFINING DAMASCUS STEEL...

AND?

THAT IRINE MUST HAVE INHERITED THE SECRET OF DAMASCUS STEEL FROM THE MASTER.

INGESS BELIE- VES...

And also, why Irine had that expression!..

I SEE.

SO THAT'S WHY INGESS IS PRESSING HER SO HARD TO LOOK INTO THE BURNA LEGACY?

ORIGINALLY, THE MARRIAGE BETWEEN IRINE AND THE FORMER GUILDMASTER WAS LOOKED UPON WITH DOUBT BY THE TOWNSFOLK.

The old Guildmaster isn't the kind of fool who would believe in idle gossip like Damascus steel...

Irine is protecting the Burna reputation.

JUST LIKE THIS CITY, MANY MASTERS COME FROM CLAUSINI. I THINK HE WAS COUNTING ON THOSE PERSONAL CONNECTIONS.

KLAZIINI? THAT CITY FAMED FOR SWORD-SMITHING?

I HEAR THAT SHE WASN'T BORN IN THIS CITY, BUT IN THE CLAUSINI AREA, FURTHER AWAY.

MR BURNA MARRIED IRINE WHEN HE WAS ABOUT 70 YEARS OF AGE.

AND I SEE NO HINT OF SELFISHNESS IN HER RISE TO LEADER-SHIP.

I'VE SEEN HER WORK SO DEVOTED-LY...

SHE DEALT WITH MUCH CRITICISM, BUT ENDURED IT FOR THE SAKE OF THE GUILD.

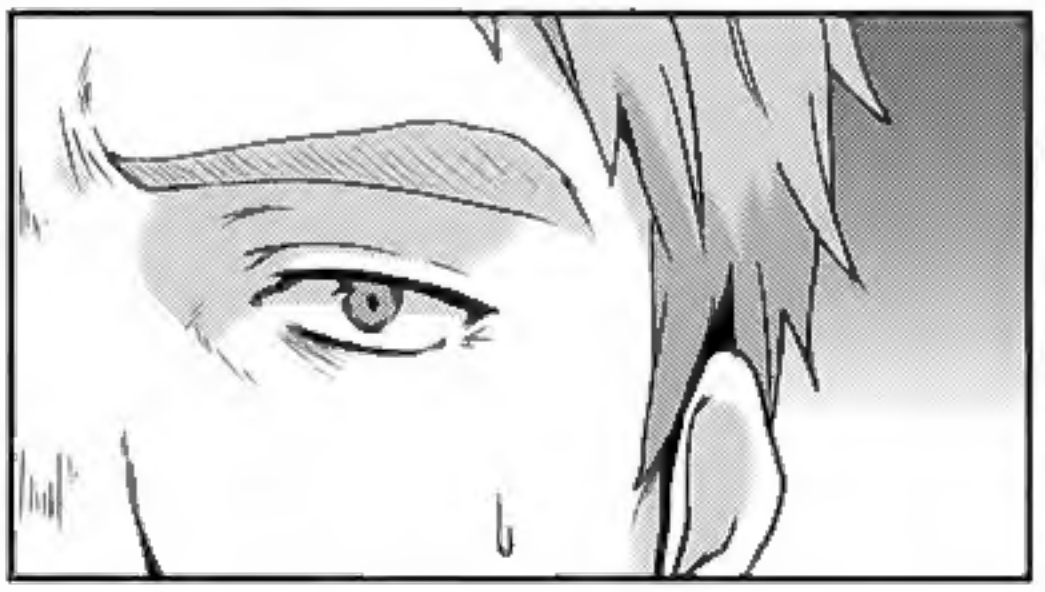
WAS NOT ONE TO BE DECEIVED BY A YOUNG GIRL MARRYING FOR MONEY...

MISTER BURNA, BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE,

SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT IRINE'S MARRIAGE WAS... GENUINE?

I ASK OF YOU.

SO THERE IS ONE THING...



OTHER CONCERNS WILL NOT DISSUADE ME FROM MY GOAL.

MY GOAL IS DAMASCUS STEEL, IR-RESPECTIVE OF IRINE.

I WILL FIND IT IN MY OWN WAY.

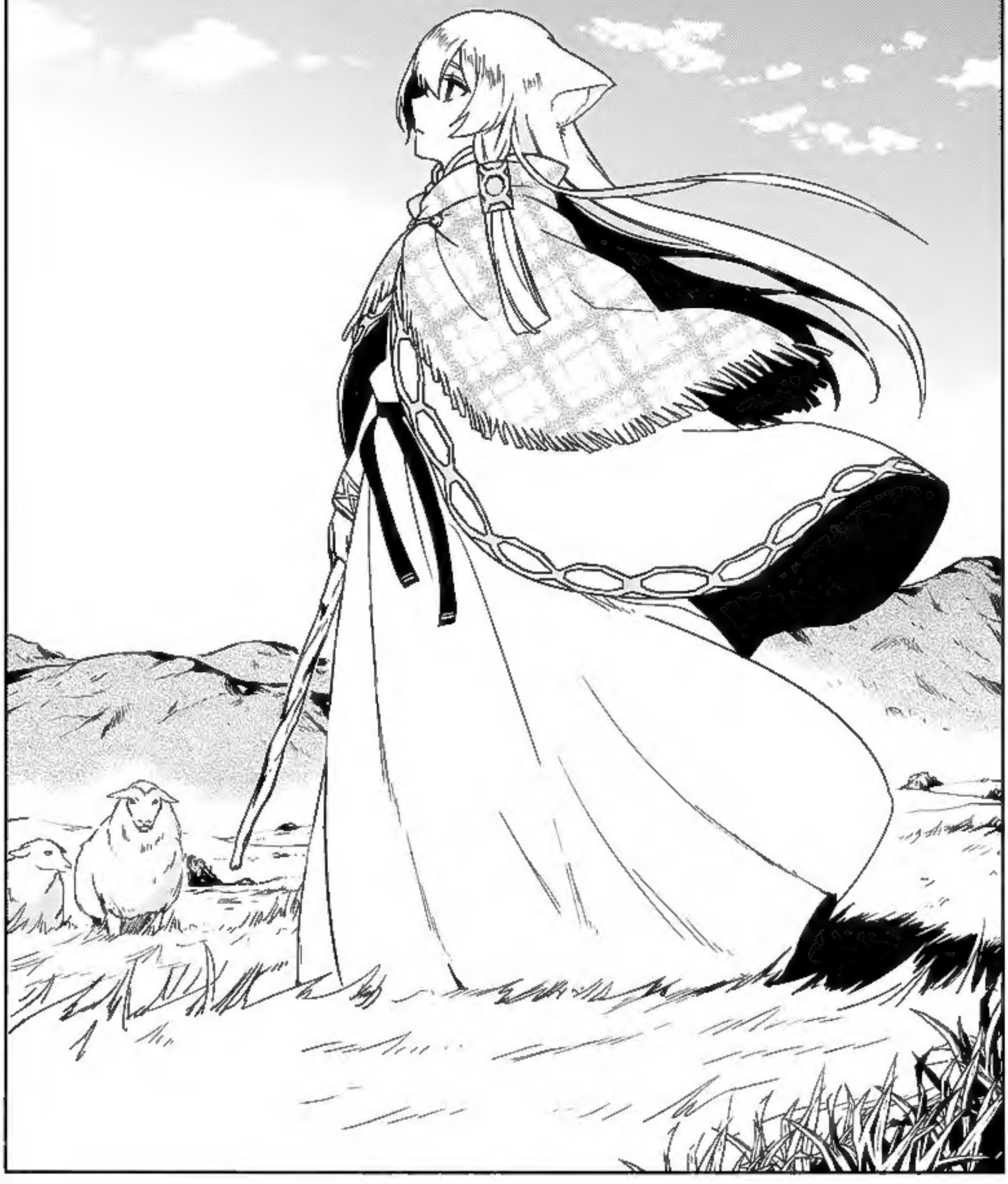
HOW-EVER ...

THAT WOMAN DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE ONE TO GIVE IN TO THREATS.

AT THE VERY LEAST,

I CAN DEAL MORE SKILL-FULLY THAN GUYS LIKE INGESS.

STORY XI
The secret deep within the eyes.



I'M BACK.

SFX: WIPE...

...I'M HEADING OFF TO THE TRANSPORT CORPS HQ.

YOU FELL ASLEEP, DIDN'T YOU?

I-

I WASN'T SLEEP-ING!

Woolsen's request aside,

there's something I should have done before asking Irine about Damascus steel directly.

Eh...?

YOU COME ALONG TOO.

If it should turn out that the tale of Damascus steel is true...

If the former guildmaster Burnia and his people are immigrants,

they would've needed to have asserted their great skills.

there's no way I won't make use of it.

As such ...

The Knights seized the company's building, and even now they're making use of it.

But that is what got the Bourbourg Company noticed by the greedy Knights, who inevitably swallowed them whole.

Before the Knights took complete control of Gulbetty, it would seem the ones with the most influence over the blacksmith guild were the Bourbourg Company.

all of the records from that time should still be here.

Raw materials and fuel for blacksmithing take a lot of money. All of that money had to be borrowed from somewhere.

The Bourbourg Company, in becoming their lender, also became their master.

WE DO KEEP IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS RELATED TO RIGHTS SEPARATE, BUT...

FOR THOSE YOU NEED O'RIZ-SAMA'S PERMIS-SION.

IF RE-CORDS ARE WHAT YOU WANT

DOCUMENTS FROM BACK THEN ARE IN THIS CORNER.

UNDER-STOOD

WELL THEN, TAKE YOUR TIME

WHAT I'M AFTER IS PROBABLY HERE WITH THESE.

AH... NO, NOT THOSE

OH

YEAH. THAT'S RIGHT.

THESE THINGS HERE WE'RE GOING TO LOOK THROUGH ALL OF THEM?

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING LIKE THAT PASS IT RIGHT OVER TO ME

スッ

WAH?

スッ

WE'RE LOOKING FOR WRITTEN PETITIONS LEFT BY MEMBERS OF THIS CITY'S BLACKSMITH GUILD.

SFX: COUGH

(T:

U...

UNDERSTOOD.

SFX: COUGH

YOU CAN CERTAINLY READ FOREIGN WRITING, CAN'T YOU?

SOME WRITING THIS IS.

HEY... WHAT'S THIS?

もじっ

UM..

.....

I HAVE TRANSLATED IT...

SFX: FIDGETING

WE'VE STRUCK GOLD.

SFX. GRIN

HUH?

WHO'RE YOU? AIN'T SEEN YOUR FACE BEFORE.

...WHERE'S IRINE?

DICKENS.

I'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU TO LEAVE.

BUT...

LEAVE

YESTERDAY AND TODAY ALIKE YOU MUST HAVE TIME ON YOUR HANDS.

WHA-

HE'S AN ALCHEMIST OF THE KNIGHT'S

I WANT TO MEET A CRAFTSMAN CALLED AZU BAHASHU.

AND?

WHAT IS IT NOW?

EVEN SO, SUCH A PERSON PROBABLY DOES EXIST.

?

IS THAT SO?

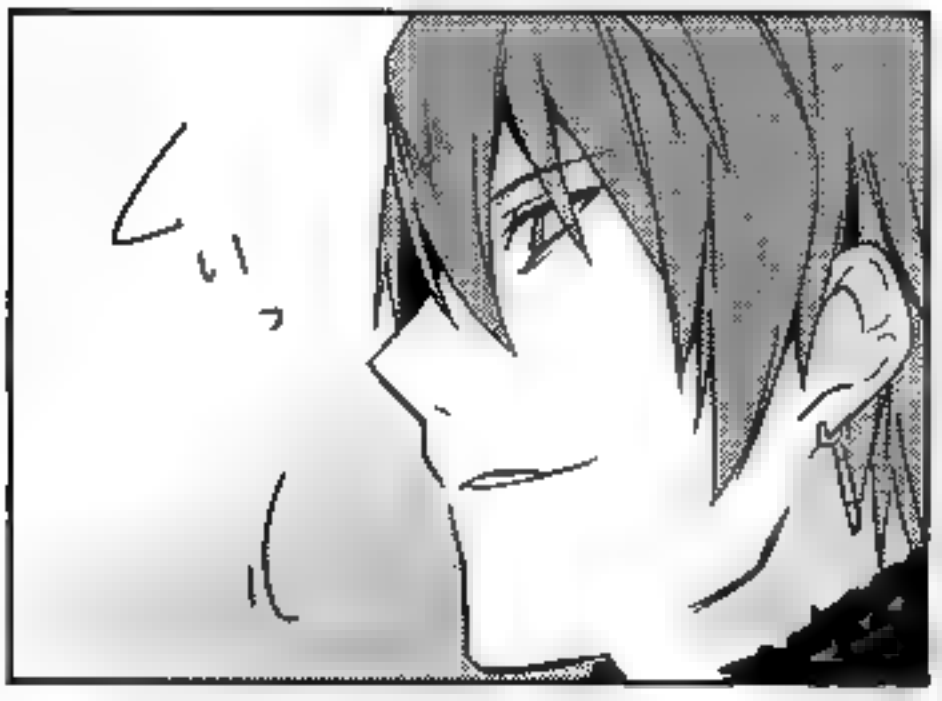
I DON'T KNOW OF A CRAFTSMAN BY THAT NAME, BUT...

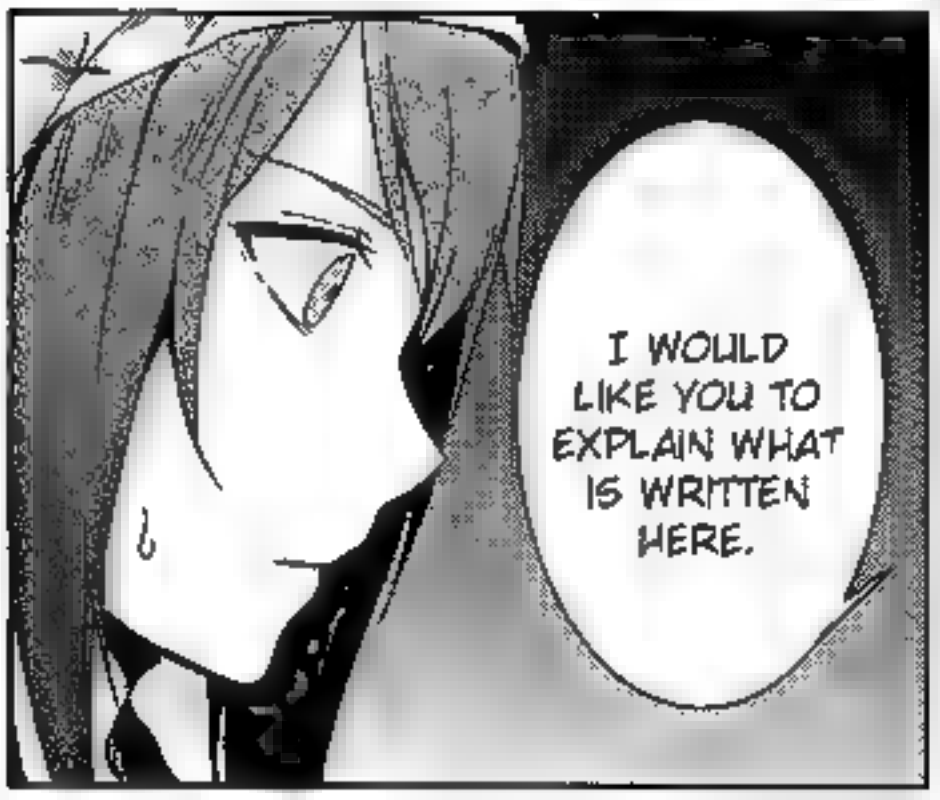
OUR GUILD HAS MANY MEMBERS, AND IF YOU GO OVER OUR HISTORY, MANY PEOPLE HAVE COME AND GONE.

AND... "BAHASHU", WAS IT? I WONDER...

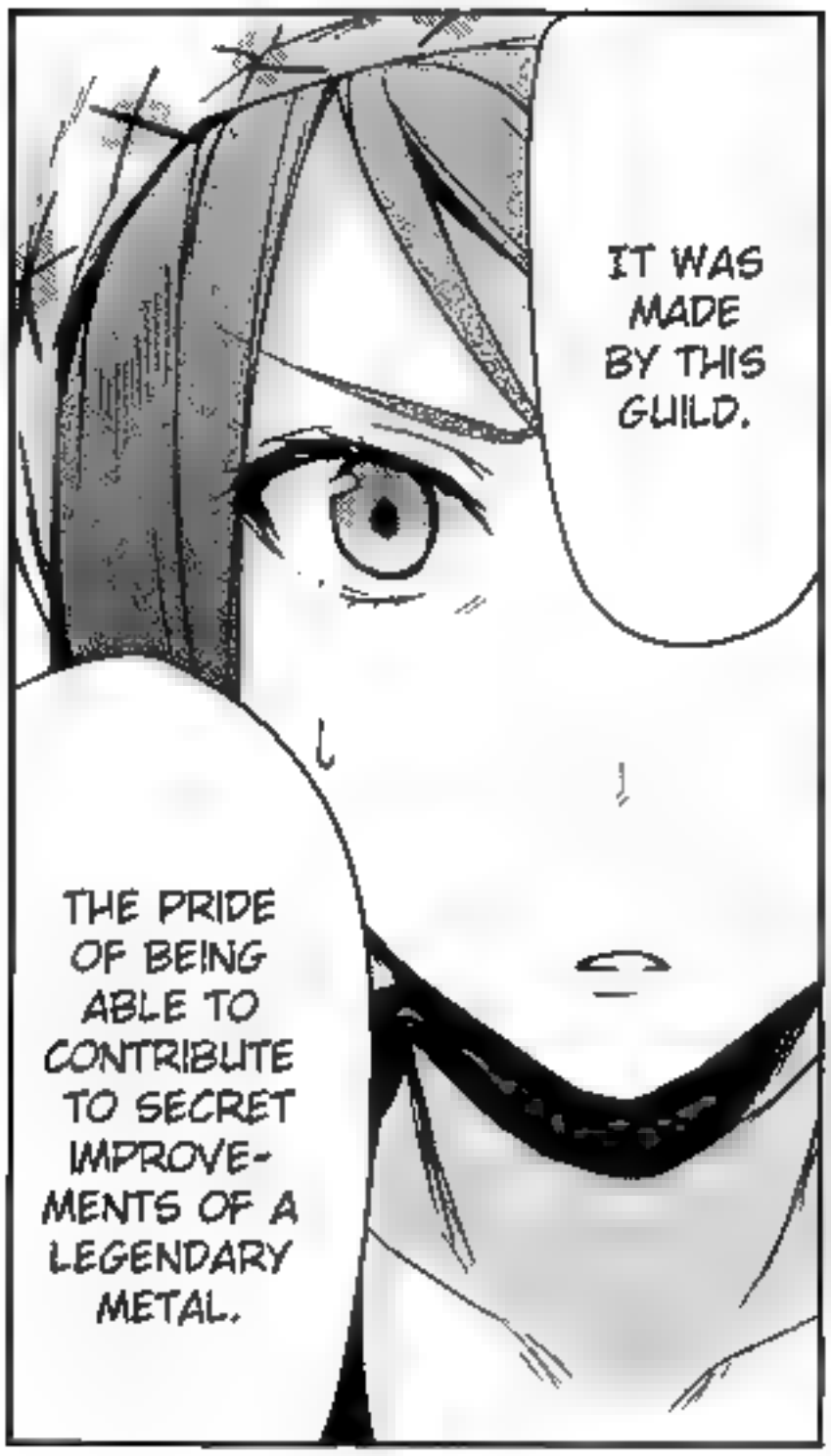
...I'LL EXPLAIN, SINCE I DON'T WANT TO CAUSE A MISUNDERSTANDING.

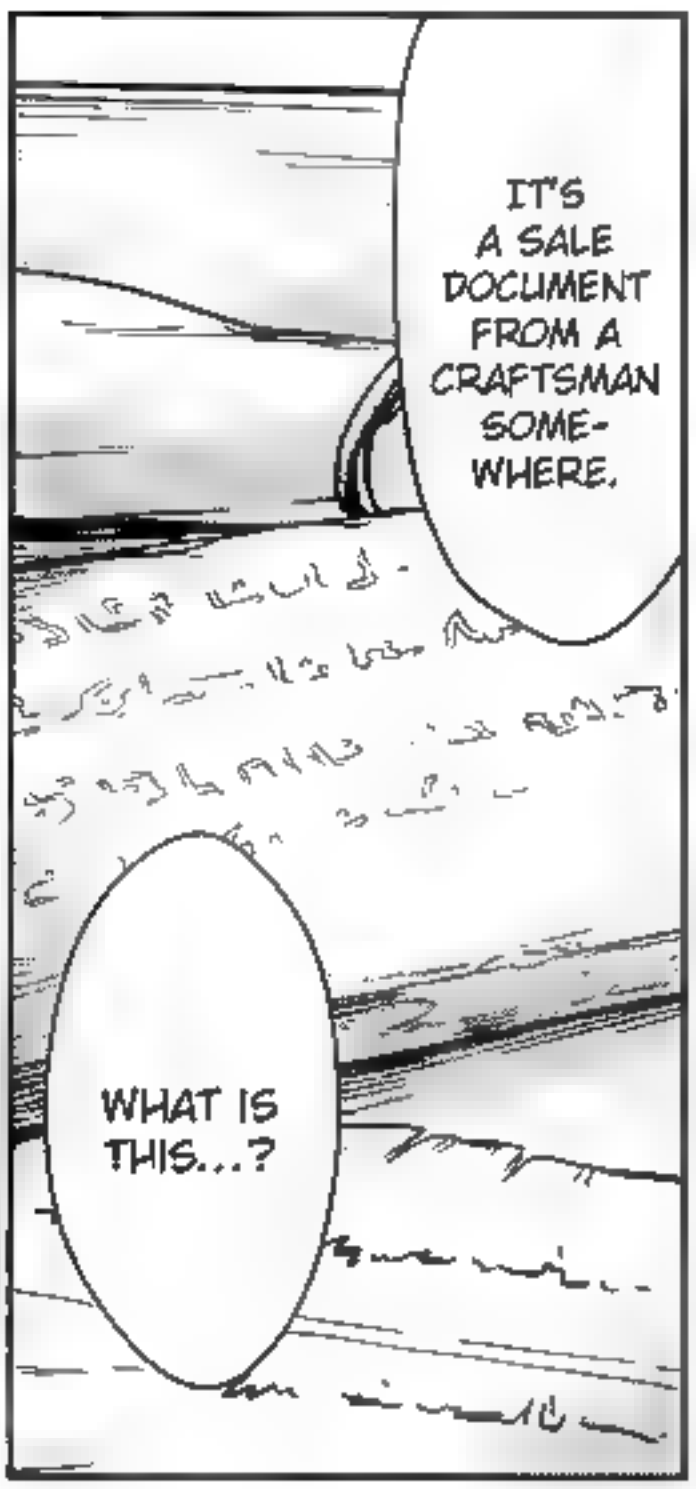
I DON'T MEAN TO HIDE ANYTHING.




I WOULD LIKE YOU TO EXPLAIN WHAT IS WRITTEN HERE.

!


IT WAS MADE BY THIS GUILD.
THE PRIDE OF BEING ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO SECRET IMPROVE-MENTS OF A LEGENDARY METAL.


IT'S A SALE DOCUMENT FROM A CRAFTSMAN SOME-WHERE.
WHAT IS THIS...?

THE CRAFTSMEN IN THIS CITY ARE QUITE COOPERATIVE. WHEN IT COMES TO METALLURGY, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I AM MADE AWARE OF IT.

THEY REALLY DON'T THINK OF ANYBODY BUT THEM-SELVES...

...HOW DO YOU KNOW OF THIS?

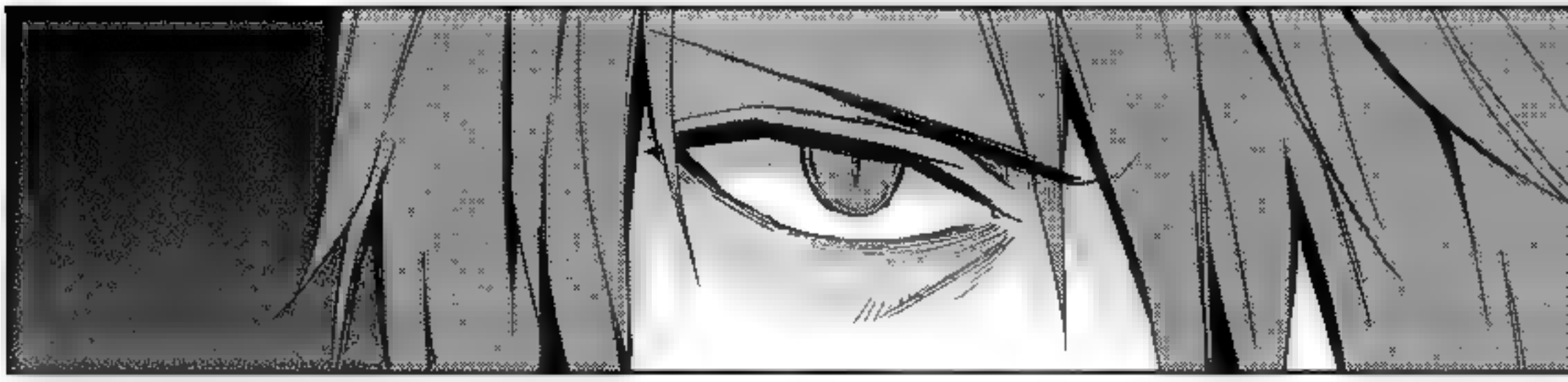
IN THAT REGARD, I AM NO DIFFERENT.

...VERY TRUE.

ONE WHOSE KNOWLEDGE IS WITHOUT REPUTATION SHALL NOT SPEAK IN THAT FASHION!

SILENCE, ALCHEMIST!

BUT THERE IS SOMETHING THAT EVEN I KNOW.



YOU ARE HIDING SOMETHING ABOUT DAMASCUS STEEL, AREN'T YOU?
SPILL IT. ALL OF IT.

I AM

.....I...

OR ARE NT YOU?

THERE S NO TIME

THERE IS NO SUCH THING.

I WAS LATE IN HEARING ABOUT IT TOO. IT'S TALK OF A MIGRATION, RIGHT?

ANY-WAY,

INGESS AND HIS GOONS ARE SNEAKING AROUND, AREN'T THEY?

IT'S TOO LATE TO PRESENT A PETITION.

THE GRAND FORCE HEADING NORTH TO KAZAN WILL ARRIVE IN THIS CITY IN JUST A FEW DAYS.

BUT YOU HAVE MY CONDO-LENCES

THAT'S WHY YOU CAME HERE IN SUCH DESPERATION, RIGHT?

HOW DO YOU INTEND TO EXPLAIN WHAT IS WRITTEN HERE?

IN THAT CASE

She's hiding something, and yet another certain something also has this little girl utterly trapped...?

What's with that look..?

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BECAUSE THERE IS NO SUCH THING.

THERE IS NO FOOL AS GREAT AS YOU. ROBERT, IN HIS GRAVE, IS LAUGHING WITH ME AT THE DULL-WITTED IMAGE OF THE ALCHEMIST PURSUING SECRET ARTS!

IF THERE IS A WAY TO CREATE DAMASCUS STEEL...

THEN WHY ISN'T IT BEING MADE RIGHT NOW?

CAN'T ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING AT ALL...

SELF-CENTERED PEOPLE LIKE YOU

IN THAT CASE...

I'LL DO AS I PLEASE.

SFX: SLUMP...

SFX: SLAM

Those were the eyes of someone who definitely knows something.

sob...

cry...

sniff...

ㅓㅓ...

SFX: GRIND...

DAMN...

STORY XI END